

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A fifth wheel coupling apparatus for connecting a towing vehicle to a towed vehicle, including a kingpin attached to the towed vehicle and a fifth-wheel receiver attached to the towing vehicle, the apparatus comprising:

a wishbone bracket that spans a pair of frame members of said towing vehicle, including a central portion on which said fifth-wheel receiver is mounted and downwardly extending arms that straddle said frame members; and

swinging linkage members pivotably coupled to both the fifth-wheel receiver and a frame of the towing vehicle disposed outboard of the frame members and pivotably coupled to said frame members and said downwardly extending arms of said wishbone bracket so as to permit limited longitudinal and vertical displacement of said receiver and kingpin with respect to said frame members as the towing vehicle initiates forward longitudinal movement, whereafter said receiver and trailer also experience forward longitudinal movement.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2 ~~1~~, wherein ~~the frame of said towing vehicle is~~ said frame members are supported by a set of tires, and said swinging linkage members and the downwardly extending arms of said wishbone bracket are disposed between said tires and said frame members.

4. (currently amended) The fifth-wheel coupling apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a locking pin temporarily preventing longitudinal displacement of said receiver with respect to said frame members to facilitate coupling and uncoupling of said kingpin and said receiver.